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§ 275. **Nature on the rampage.**—We have received a charming letter from a valued correspondent of the BULLETIN, who has removed to South-western Michigan. We trust she will pardon the publication of the following extract: "The spring flowers here are abundant and beautiful, but, though everything grows enormously, there is no such place for surprises as at the East. We found *Epigaea* last spring, greatly to our content, and a thicket of wild crab, which, like Thoreau, we much delighted in. As we have a boat on the river, we study the water plants somewhat, but everything becomes a jungle soon. I have seen acres of tall annuals and ferns woven into a compact mass with *Cuscuta chlorocarpa*, which had finally given them, at a distance, an orange bloom from its own color. * * * * Think of *Erechthites hieracifolia* twenty feet high, and *Phleum pratense* seven feet and two inches in height when it grew wild, as I have seen them both. The birds are plentiful and very tame—too tame, I sometimes think. The mocking thrush will come to a tree where I am, sit within five feet of me, and sing as if it were mad with joy. Carolina doves roll and sun themselves almost at my feet, and I really don't know sometimes but the little scolds will combine and drive me out of my strawberry-bed altogether, they are so fearless, and angry if I disturb them. Hares run about everywhere. I have seen seven or eight at once playing in my pear orchard. They keep a bed of *Verbenas* eaten down and take the most of my pansies."

§ 276. **Publications.**—1. *American Naturalist*. In the August No., Prof. W. J. Beal explains the fertilization of *Utricularia* and *Pyxidanthera*, and in the October No., "How Thistles spin." Dr. Edward Palmer in Sept. and Oct. Nos. has a very valuable paper on the Plants used by the Indians of the United States. In the November No. Mr. Davenport distinguishes between *Aspidium spinulosum* and variety *intermedium*, which he is inclined to regard as a distinct species and to name *A. Americanum*. The most decided differences are that in *A. spinulosum* the under surface is smooth, indusium naked, sori terminal on the veins; in var. *intermedium*, the under surface is finely glandular, indusium covered with stalked glands, sori medial or subterminal on veins. It is necessary to collect specimens early, as the glands are fugacious, quickly disappearing after the indusium begins to contract. He is likewise inclined to consider Var. *Boottii* also as distinct, at all events as more nearly allied to *A. cristatum*. In the same No. Mr. Ward discusses the Natural succession of the Dicotyledons. Two recent works of great interest bearing on this point, are:—2. *Blüthendiagramme*, by Dr. A. W. Eichler, 2nd Part, Leipzig, Engelmann, 1878, and—3. *Vergleichende Untersuchungen über Entwicklung dikotyledoner Keime*, by Dr. F. Hegelmaier, Stuttgart, Koch, 1878.—4. *American Journal of Science and Arts*. In the August and September Nos. is published Dr. Gray's Lecture on Forest Geography and Archæology, in which his well-known views, confirmed by Arctic discoveries, as to the effects of the glacial period on plant distribution are applied to the four forest regions of the opposite shores of the Northern Atlantic and

Pacific. These are estimated to contain of trees properly so called and extra-tropical—

Atlantic American,	-	non-coniferous,	55	genera,	130	species.
		conifers,	11	"	25	"
			66	"	155	"
Pacific American,	-	non-coniferous,	19	"	34	species.
		conifers,	12	"	44	species.
			31	"	78	"
Japan-Manchurian,	-	non-coniferous,	47	genera,	123	species.
		coniferous,	19	"	45	"
			66	"	168	
European,		non-coniferous,	26	genera,	68	species.
		coniferous,	7	"	17	"
			33	"	85	"

If we compare the respective totals of these tables, we notice a pretty close correspondence between the eastern sides of the continents in excess and between the western sides in deficiency, which would lead us to suppose that some common cause had been at work, especially when Dr. Gray points out that many of the same missing trees of the great northern forests are found fossil in Europe and Pacific America. But this correspondence is much impaired when we consider separately the non-coniferous and coniferous trees of the two western sides of the continents. Dr. Gray admits the difficulty of explaining our Pacific forest completely, but the lecture is full of instruction on its peculiarities, on the influence of rain on forest distribution, and on many other points. In reference to his remark that probably "the line of demarkation between our woods and plains is not where it was drawn by nature," Prof. C. A. White, in a note to the October No., states that: "The forest area of Iowa is rapidly increasing to-day, both by natural growth and artificial propagation." In the November No. Prof. Farlow has a note on Prof. de Bary's prosecution of observations on the asexual production of *Pteris Cretica*, first noticed by Dr. Farlow. It seems that not only other ferns, *Aspidium Filix-mas* for example, have this peculiarity, but also other plants. Of *Chara crinita* the female is alone known in Northern Europe, yet it fruits abundantly. Something similar takes place even in higher plants.—5. *The American Quarterly Microscopic Journal*, Vol. I, No. 1., Oct. 1878, Published by Hitchcock and Wall, 150, Nassau, New York, \$3 per annum. We hail this new publication as a sign of increased attention to the microscope, on which the future of botany so largely depends.—6. *The Forests of Alabama and their Products*, and *The Grasses and other forage plants of Alabama*, by Chas. Mohr, Mobile. The list of trees and shrubs numbers 221. An introduction describes the geological formations where they are found, and the wonderful increase in the lumber activity of Alabama. 137 grasses are enumerated. Among the forage plants we are surprised to see *Desmodium acuminatum* and

D. nudiflorum esteemed as nutritious, milk producing plants, frequent in rich shady woods. 7. *Botanical Gazette*.

§ 277. **A Truffle New to the North American Flora.**—At a meeting of the Club on Nov. 12th, Mr. W. R. Gerard called attention to his recent discovery, on Staten Island, of a species of Truffle. He stated that these fungi had always been regarded as rare in America; but that their rarity was probably more apparent than real, the plants not having been looked for. Dr. Torrey, in his Catalogue of New York City Plants, published in 1819, records the edible truffle (*Tuber cibarium*) as found in "Love Lane" (21st Street?) This statement, however, is doubtful, inasmuch as Dr. Torrey, unacquainted with fungi, sent his specimens for naming to Schweinitz, and the latter, in his "Synopsis," published in 1834, states that he had never met with a truffle in this country, but recorded the *Tuber cibarium*, on hearsay only. In the Rev. M. J. Berkeley's "Notices of North American Fungi," published two years since in *Grevillea*, he records but a single species—*Tuber macrosporum*—sent from Pennsylvania by Michener. Mr. Gerard was under the impression, although he was not positive, that he had seen a statement that another species had been detected in California last year. At any rate, the present would seem to be only the third (if, indeed, not the second) authentic account of the discovery of a genuine truffle in North America; and, for that reason, was a matter of considerable interest. The Staten Island species was found at Huguenot, growing in a side bank, in loamy soil, about the roots of alders (*Alnus serrulata*.) The tubers were about the size of a nutmeg, with a firm, smooth, cream-colored skin. The *asci* were nearly globular, and contained four large, broadly oval, reddish-brown sporidia, the surface of which was covered with a beautiful network of hexagonal reticulations; and from the angles of the latter arose short, linear, hyaline spines. The plant answered pretty well to the description given of Tulasne's *Tuber dryophilum*, and was perhaps that plant. In the absence of specimens M. Gerard exhibited a water-color drawing of the plant, with magnified figures of the fruit.

§ 278. **Herbarium for sale.**—Mr. James N. Bishop, Plainville, Connecticut, desires to sell at once his herbarium, consisting of about 1500 mounted specimens, and the same number unmounted, comprising many rare plants collected by himself there, and some from the South and West, and all correctly named. He will sell for almost any cash figure, though he thinks he ought to receive from four to five cents each for those that are mounted, and half that for those that are not.

§ 279. **Erratum.**—The three lines appended to Prof. Eaton's article, p. 265, in our October number, were not intended for publication: moreover we understand that the publisher will have the plates in question reprinted correctly, and issued to the subscribers free of cost to them. Polopodium for Polypodium was a slip of our own. EDS.

Terms—One Dollar per annum beginning with the January number. For the *Botanical Directory* 40 cents; three copies for one dollar, or twelve for three dollars. Vols. I.-V., with index, and photograph of Dr. Torrey, \$3.75. Copies of Constitution and By-Laws of the Club, 25 cents. Address, WM. H. LEGGETT, 54, East 81st Street, New York. Money Orders on Station K, N. Y. All subscriptions or orders filled only on receipt of the money.

The Club meets regularly the second Tuesday of the month in the Herbarium, Columbia College, at 7:30 P. M. Botanists are invited to attend. DR. THURBER, the President of the Club, may be found at 245 Broadway.